

nor from the mouth of your children's children, said the Lord, from now, for all time."

It is not an accident that freedom of religion is one of the central freedoms in our Bill of Rights. It is the first freedom of the human soul, the right to speak the words that God places in our mouths. We must stand for that freedom in our country. We must speak for that freedom in the world. And I thank the American Jewish Committee for your willingness to do both.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:22 p.m. at the National Building Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Bruce M. Ramer, president, and David A. Harris, executive director, American Jewish Committee; Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer and Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of Germany; and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Message on the Observance of Cinco de Mayo

May 2, 2001

I am pleased to send warm greetings to all those gathered to celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

May 5th marks the triumph of the spirit of freedom for the people of Mexico. The victory of General Ignacio Zaragoza and his Mexican troops over the superior French forces at the Battle of Puebla served as a stirring reminder of the determination to win the fight for Mexico's freedom from foreign intervention. The Cinco de Mayo display of courage and purpose is a source of pride for all freedom-loving people.

We Americans cherish our deep historical, cultural, economic, and, in many cases, family ties with Mexico and Latin America. Cinco de Mayo celebrations remind us how much Hispanics have influenced and enriched the United States. Hispanic Americans contribute to the shared traditions that are part of our history, including entrepreneurship, a sense of community where neighbor helps neighbor, faith, and love of family. On this special day, I encourage Americans to reaffirm the ties of culture and friendship

we share with the people of Mexico and with Hispanic Americans.

As you enjoy the day with parades, folkloric dancing, and other festive activities, Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a joyous celebration.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This message was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 4.

Remarks on Presenting the Commander in Chief's Trophy to the United States Air Force Academy Falcons

May 4, 2001

Good morning. Thank you all for coming. It's my honor to welcome you all to the White House. I want to thank the generals who are here, and the members of the congressional delegation that have come. Most of all, I want to welcome Coach DeBerry and the Fighting Falcons of the United States Air Force Academy.

It is my honor to present the Commander in Chief's Trophy, which recognizes gridiron supremacy amongst our Nation's service academies. The Falcons' record of success in service academy football is truly stellar. They won this trophy 10 of the last 12 years—14 times overall. The seniors on this team completed their careers with a 37–12 record. It's the next-to-best record of any group of seniors in academy history, and I want to congratulate you all.

I know you all take special pride in your coach. He's got an outstanding record, as well. This is the 12th time in 17 seasons under Coach DeBerry that the Falcons have won the Commander in Chief's Trophy.

I thought it was interesting that the first time he brought his seniors to the White House was in 1986. Ronald Reagan was still the President; the Berlin Wall still stood; windows were something that you washed. *[Laughter]*

As Coach DeBerry reminded everyone at last year's White House ceremony, Presidents come and go, but coaches do not have

term limits. *[Laughter]* Coach, a word of caution—*[laughter]*—winning this trophy is supposed to be a struggle, not a hobby. *[Laughter]* And the truth is, if you spend any more time in Washington, the folks back in Colorado Springs are going to start saying you're out of touch. *[Laughter]*

I love Coach DeBerry's motto: Faith, family, and Falcons. This is a man who has his priorities straight. And they must be, because he's not just recruiting football talent; he's recruiting character. He's not just recruiting to win football games; he's recruiting to win our Nation's wars, if we have one.

These seniors know that conference titles, bowl victories, and trophies are not nearly as important as the solemn oath they will take in just a few weeks as newest officers in the world's finest Air Force. Today we honor the history that you've made on the playing field. But we look forward to even more of the history you will make serving our Nation.

Coach DeBerry, if the past is prologue, I suspect you, too, will have a bright future. And you've got an opener next season with another team that recently visited the White House, the mighty Oklahoma Sooners. And my hope is that you try to soften them up a bit before they play the Texas teams. *[Laughter]*

But it's my honor to congratulate you, and congratulations in advance for the service you will render to our fabulous Nation.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:35 a.m. at the South Portico at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Fisher DeBerry, football coach, U.S. Air Force Academy. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Coach DeBerry.

Remarks Honoring the 2000 World Series Champion New York Yankees *May 4, 2001*

Thank you. Please sit down. Well, it's my honor to welcome the mighty Yanks to the Rose Garden, a team that broke my heart many a time, as the owner of the Texas Rangers. *[Laughter]*

I'm so glad you all are here, and I appreciate the mayor being here—the Yankees'

number one fan—and members of the congressional delegation who are here, as well. Thank you all for coming.

It's good to see my old fellow owner, "the Boss." *[Laughter]* What a record you've had. A man who demands excellence and often-times gets it. *[Laughter]* But thank you for coming, George. I know the real boss of the Yankees is here, too, Arthur Richman. *[Laughter]* How are you, Arthur? Good to see you. I told you one of these days we would get to the White House. Just don't take any silverware, Arthur. *[Laughter]*

It's good to see Randy and Brian Cashman. Thank you all for coming. I am—I understand something about baseball. It not only takes great players to win a championship, it takes a great manager, too. And I know all sports fans are impressed by the class of Joe Torre. What a heck of a man he is. And Don Zimmer, you're not so bad, either. *[Laughter]*

But one of the things everybody forgets about Joe is that he was a pretty darn good player himself. Thirty years ago, he led the National League with a .363 batting average, 137 RBIs, and it's sure good to welcome you back here, Joe. *[Laughter]*

And there are fellow Texans on this team, and around here that counts for something. *[Laughter]* So it's good to see "the Rocket," a friend of my family's Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte, and Chuck Knoblauch.

I—something about the Yankees. It's one of the greatest names in sport. It's a tradition and a powerful tradition. I mean, you put on a uniform, it's just not work clothes; it's the uniform that Ruth wore or Gehrig wore, and you all have kept up that tradition. And for that, you need to be congratulated.

It's interesting that we're hosting the great Yanks here in the Rose Garden, and then this Sunday there's a little different celebration taking place. It's a baseball celebration. But on the other side of the driveway down there, we've set up a tee-ball park. And it's a chance for moms and dads to bring tee-ball teams to celebrate the great sport of baseball right here on the hallowed grounds of the White House. Yankee Stadium is hallowed grounds, so is the White House.

What's going to be interesting about that day is there is going to be some little kid